

How-To Guide to geographical location using AreaFinder

Purpose

This How-To Guide provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to effectively use the AreaFinder app and follow GPHIN's guidelines for geographical location of epidemiological events in GPHIN products. The objective is to apply standardized name when reporting on events in GPHIN products, particularly the Daily Report. The guide is designed to ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with official Government of Canada and United Nations geolocation standards (M49), enabling the smooth implementation of automated workflows in the GPHIN Collaboration Hub.

Scope

This guide covers the following tasks:

- How to use the AreaFinder app to select the appropriate geographical location (continent, region, or country) when describing events to GPHIN products.
- The step-by-step process of applying the geolocation standards outlined in the Daily Report.
- Guidance on ensuring that country names, regional classifications, and geolocation attributes adhere to the official GoC and UN M49 standards.

Audience

This guide is intended for GPHIN analysts and epidemiologists.

General Guidelines

1. The names for countries and territories associated with Daily Report entries will be spelled (including accents) in accordance to the names recognized by the Government of Canada.

Consider the event below from the Daily Report of Jan. 16, 2025:

3. Türkiye: According to media reports, 19 people who drank **contaminated alcohol** in Istanbul have died in the past 48 hours. A total of 65 people have been affected, and 43 of whom are still being treated in hospital. Among them were 26 foreigners. ([The New Arab](#))

Figure 1: DR entry #3 of 25-01-16

The country, according to the Canadian Government should be written as Türkiye:

3. **Türkiye:** According to media reports, 19 people who drank **contaminated alcohol** in Istanbul have died in the past 48 hours. A total of 65 people have been affected, and 43 of whom are still being treated in hospital. Among them were 26 foreigners. ([The New Arab](#))

Figure 2: DR entry #3 of 25-01-16 corrected

2. Daily Report entries no longer will be attributed to institutions, only Geolocalities.

Consider the event below from the Daily Report of Jan. 28, 2025:

5. **PAHO:** According to the latest PAHO epidemiological update on **avian influenza H5N1** in the Americas, during 2024 alone and as of January 17, 2025, 68 human cases have been reported in Canada and the United States, of which 54 were reported between October 2024 and January 2025. Nine countries and territories in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Mexico, Peru and the United States) have reported 1,451 outbreaks of avian influenza in birds and mammals during 2024. ([PAHO](#))

Figure 3: DR entry #5 of 25-01-28

This event will be assigned to Americas, as it is the common region for the countries listed in the summary (see below):

5. **Americas:** According to the latest PAHO epidemiological update on **avian influenza H5N1** in the Americas, during 2024 alone and as of January 17, 2025, 68 human cases have been reported in Canada and the United States, of which 54 were reported between October 2024 and January 2025. Nine countries and territories in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Mexico, Peru and the United States) have reported 1,451 outbreaks of avian influenza in birds and mammals during 2024. ([PAHO](#))

Figure 4: DR entry #5 of 25-01-28

3. Daily Report entries with multiple countries and territories will be either assigned to one of the United Nations geoscheme M49 regions or continents, or if this is not possible, it will be assigned to Multiregional or Worldwide following these rules:

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3a. If the country or territory is within a single region, the name of the region will be assigned.

- **Example:** If the affected locations are Costa Rica and Panama, the event is assigned to **Central America**.

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Figure 5: UN 22 region map

3b. If the country or territory includes 2 or more regions within a single continent, the name of the continent will be assigned.

- **Example:** If the affected locations are Czechia, Germany, and Spain, the event is assigned to Europe.

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3c. If the country or territory includes 2 or more regions from different continents, the event will be considered Multiregional.

- **Example:** If the affected locations are Morocco and Spain the event is assigned to Multiregional.